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On the campus front: what prospects for peace?

None, says William Worthy, veteran reporter and analyst

By William Worthy

William Worthy, correspondent of *The Baltimore Afro-American* and a former Nieman Fellow, was in Vietnam the year before and the year after the French defeat at Dienbienphu. Seven years later, (1962) in *Midstream* magazine, he predicted disaster for this country in Vietnam.

"We must recognize that the young in many areas of the world today are in the midst of a revolution against the status quo . . . They will prevail. They will achieve their idealistic goals one way or another. If they have to pull governments tumbling down over their heads, they will do it . . ."

Robert F. Kennedy, 1964

"The future comes with the same degree of violence which is used against it." — Barrows Dunham in *"Heroes and Heretics"*

A decade ago, in the tense period leading up to the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, reporter Laura Berquist of *Look* magazine was interviewing Che Guevara in Havana. Despite Washington's tightening of the economic noose, Fidel Castro had not yet taken his country into the Soviet camp, and he was still making speeches critical of communism.

Miss Berquist wanted to know how far to the left the Cuban revolution was going to go.

Che's reply was direct: That question should be directed "to your own government in Washington. The

Cuban revolution will go as far to the left as it is pushed."

In the minds of Middle Americans banking on the thousand new FBI agents, the National Guard and stiff new laws to repress campus upheavals, the history of revolutionary Cuba since Che's remark should give pause.

Hard-nose counter revolutionary solutions seem to have dubious long-term effectiveness in this final third of the twentieth century. For another six or seven years the Cuban government held open the door for normalization of relations with the United States. But around 1967, as a result of the war in Vietnam, Castro finally decided there could be no reconciliation with the colossus to the North until, as he put it, there is a complete change in our system.

Am I implying that rebellious college youth, at some point in the 1970s, will in large numbers give up entirely on the land of their birth? Any thoughtful answer requires a sober backward look at the extraordinary, cumulative and accelerating record of passionate violence and turbulence on and off campuses, in three years:

Just this year, from January 1969 to January 1970, 333 bombing incidents occurred in the United States,

according to the Department of Justice. Campus bombings numbered 25, with an additional eleven near a campus or in a college town. The figures do not include arson (by which many ROTC and other campus military buildings have been destroyed), or attempted arson or attempted bombings.

In July, the chief deputy attorney general of California told a Senate subcommittee that the rate of bombings in his state alone had risen, since June, to nearly twenty a week. Leftists, he said, had stolen five tons of explosives from a California dam construction site over a period of years without the contractors being aware of it, while right-wing Minutemen had stolen 1400 pounds of dynamite from a construction site in 1965.

Last spring, when students firebombed a Bank of America branch near the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California, policemen seized 94 pounds of military C-4 plastic explosives and 39 grenades from residents in the area.

SINCE October, 1967, 432 war protestors have admitted responsibility for 22 separate draft board raids in which over one million non-duplicated draft files have been destroyed. During the same period, a growing number of top-drawer corporations with military contracts, including Dow Chemical, IT&T, and Standard of New Jersey, have been hit with

disruptive and records-destroying actions.

Most recently, eight persons not only destroyed all 1-A draft files in Rochester, New York, but also invaded, at night, the hitherto sacrosanct offices of the FBI and the US Attorney. (Five years ago, what American, young or old, would have even thought of a political raid on Mr. Hoover's "awesome" precincts? The fact that the unthinkable is now frequently happening is perceptively analyzed in a brilliant piece on the new youth culture and consciousness in the September 26 issue of *The New Yorker*.) The raiders, who were caught by the merest chance when a cop on the beat happened to pass the Federal Building, obtained lists of informers and information on FBI procedures against the Black Panther Party and other revolutionary groups.

PRIOR to the September 26 release of the report of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest, Chairman William Scranton met with a limited group of correspondents and revealed that the commission believes that out of seven million students on the country's campuses, a million are demonstration-minded, and that the trend is to "steady growth" in the number of dissenters. The commission complained in its report to Mr. Nixon that "an increasing number (of students), not terrorists themselves, would not turn even arsonists and bombers